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1956-57 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP DESIGN CHOSEN

A black and white watercolor featuring a pair of American Mergansers flying low over fog-bound water has been chosen as the design for the 1956-57 Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay announced today.

Edward J. Bierly, 2723 S. Buchanan St., Arlington, Va., is the artist who drew the winning design for the seventh annual "duck stamp" competition. This will be the 23d stamp to be issued in the Federal duck stamp series. Mr. Bierly was runner-up in last year's contest.

A panel of waterfowl experts judged Mr. Bierly's design as the best of the 64 submitted in the competition. During the judging the artists' names were masked.

C. G. Pritchard, 2535 T Street, Lincoln, Nebr., with his picture of three mallards was the runner-up. Third place went to Stuart Ferreira, 308 S. Cedar St., Owatonna, Minn., for his design of old squaws.

Serving as members of the judging committee were Harry J. Donohue, Special Assistant to Assistant Secretary of the Interior Wesley A. D'Ewart; Arnie J. Suomela and Robert H. Johnson, both assistant directors of the Fish and Wildlife Service; Dr. O. Lloyd Meehan and Frederick C. Lincoln, both assistants to the director of the Fish and Wildlife Service; David R. Gascoyne, regional director of Region 5 of the Fish and Wildlife Service, with headquarters in Boston, Mass.; Robert Fellers, representing the Post Office Department; Donald R. McLeod, superintendent of the Engraving Division, Bureau of Engraving and Printing; Michael Hudoba, Associate Editor of Sports Afield; Arthur Grahame, Washington representative of Outdoor Life; and Richard W. Westwood, Editor, Nature Magazine. A number of other Fish and Wildlife Service waterfowl experts also served as judges.

The design selected for each year's duck stamp is chosen by a judging committee of waterfowl authorities from among entries submitted by artists from every part of the country. Prior to 1949, however, outstanding wildlife artists were invited to submit entries and the selection was made from this limited group. In that year the limitations were lifted and a public contest was decided upon in order to give an opportunity for all wildlife artists to compete in the future.

A total of 64 designs was submitted by 42 artists in this year's contest. The entries were notable for their fine quality, the judges said. Two artists whose designs had been selected in previous years again submitted entries.

Twenty-one States were represented among the entries. Ohio and Minnesota were tied for first place with five contestants each; California had four; Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York, three each; Nebraska, Missouri, Pennsylvania and Virginia, two each; Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Washington, and Wisconsin were represented by one contestant apiece.

Jay N. ("Ding") Darling, famous cartoonist and noted conservationist, then head of the former Bureau of Biological Survey (one of the predecessor agencies of the present Fish and Wildlife Service), fittingly designed the first of the annual series of migratory waterfowl hunting stamps issued by the Federal Government. This first stamp went on sale on August 14, 1934, and expired on June 30, 1935. The sale of that issue amounted to 635,001 stamps.

Succeeding duck stamp artists were: Frank W. Benson, 1935-36; Richard E. Bishop, 1936-37; J. D. Knap, 1937-38; Roland Clark, 1938-39; Lynn Bogue Hunt, 1939-40; Francis L. Jacques, 1940-41; E. R. Kalmbach, 1941-42; A. Lessell Ripley, 1942-43; Walter E. Bohl, 1943-44; Walter A. Weber, 1944-45 and 1950-51; Owen J. Gromme, 1945-46; Robert W. Hines, 1946-47; Jack Murray, 1947-48; Maynard Reece, 1948-49 and 1951-52; Roger E. Preuss, 1949-50; John H. Dick, 1952-53; Clayton B. Seagears, 1953-54; Harvey Sandstrom, 1954-55; and Stanley Stearns, 1955-56.

The duck stamp has become familiar to all migratory waterfowl hunters and to philatelists and conservationists throughout the country since the first issue in the series went on sale in 1934. A new stamp is issued each year by the Post Office Department which is in charge of its distribution and sale. It goes on sale on July 1 and expires on the following June 30. Nearly twice the size of a special delivery stamp, it sells for \$2. Everyone over 16 years of age who hunts migratory waterfowl is required to have one of these stamps in his possession, in addition to his State hunting license. More than two million duck stamps are sold annually. Duck stamp revenues are used to supplement other funds appropriated to the Fish and Wildlife Service for the purchase, development, administration, and maintenance of waterfowl refuges throughout the country.

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(Note: Glossy prints of the winning duck stamp design and of the contest judging are available on a loan basis for reproduction in newspapers and magazines.)